



Sustainable Maryland Certified

In June 2012, Rockville became the second Maryland municipality to achieve a “Certificate of Sustainability” through the Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) program. SMC’s executive committee approved Rockville’s certification, consisting of 18 actions earning 230 points. An award was presented to Mayor and Council representatives on October 4, 2012 at the Maryland Municipal League (MML) fall conference. Rockville continues to implement various sustainability initiatives to maintain this certification; with the goal of eventually achieving a Silver or Gold level of certification in the future.

Overview

[Sustainable Maryland Certified](#) is a free and voluntary initiative of the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland (EFC) and the Maryland Municipal League (MML) that is designed to provide a framework for Maryland’s 157 municipalities to help them choose a direction for their sustainability efforts, improve access to resources needed to implement action, measure progress and gain recognition for accomplishments. To achieve certification, municipalities need to register and complete actions worth a total of 150 points (including two mandatory actions and two of six priority actions) and submit the appropriate online documentation as evidence that the program requirements have been satisfied.

Municipalities may select from SMC’s [menu of more than 60 certification actions](#), totaling more than 700 points in eight action categories: community action, community based food systems, energy, greenhouse gas, health and wellness, local economies, natural resources, and planning and land use.

Benefits

Participation in the Sustainable Maryland Certified program provides several benefits:

- **Provides a comprehensive framework to enhance the community’s overall sustainability.** SMC identifies potential actions items, trainings, planning tools and incentives to help communities prioritize and implement sustainable practices. SMC also provides a platform for municipalities to share information and benchmark their programs to others jurisdictions in Maryland.
- **Promotes long term financial savings.** Sustainable actions, such as energy efficiency and recycling, generate long term savings. Energy efficiency improvements at Rockville’s water plant, facilities, traffic and street lights generate annual electricity savings. The residential recycling program not only prevents the City from paying fees for incineration, it also generates revenue from the sale of recycling and scrap metal to help keep collection fees low for residents.
- **Makes Rockville more competitive.** Demonstrated leadership and visibility provide a competitive boost for future state and federal grants, a foundation for new partnerships, and new opportunities to participate in other State and university programs.
- **Ensures a high quality of life.** Sustainability initiatives make Rockville more competitive for businesses and a more attractive community for residents.
- **Supports Federal and State regulatory requirements.** Ensures that Rockville meets regulatory requirements and contributes to improving air quality and water quality in Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.

Rockville's Certification

In 2011, the Mayor and Council [adopted a resolution](#) to participate in this free and voluntary initiative. To earn certification, Rockville's Environment Commission collaborated with various community partners and staff to form a Green Team that conducted a sustainability survey to characterize community priorities, identified three-year action goals and potential partners, and completed the formal application. Various stakeholders in the community, including various City departments, commissions, community organizations, businesses and residents, are involved in the following action items that contribute to Rockville's sustainability certification.

SMC Category	Examples of Action Items
1. Community Action	Environment Commission/Green Team, Green Team Action Plan
2. Community Based Food Systems	Local farmers markets, Community gardens
3. Energy	Municipal energy audits, <i>Green Power Community Challenge</i>
4. Greenhouse Gas	Greenhouse gas emissions inventories (municipal operations & community)
5. Health and Wellness	<i>Let's Move City</i> , Workplace Wellness Program, <i>Healthiest Maryland Businesses</i> , <i>Safe Routes to School</i>
6. Local Economies	<i>Rockville Rewards</i> buy local campaign, Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI), Rockville Summit
7. Natural Resources	Watershed plans, Stormwater management program and utility fee, Rainscapes Rewards, Adopt-a-Stream, <i>Tree City USA</i> , Pollution prevention outreach, etc.
8. Planning and Land Use	Housing Element and the Comprehensive Master Plan

More Information

- [Rockville's Sustainable Maryland Certification Application](#) (select Rockville on the SMC map)
- Rockville Environmental Management Division
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